

From: Bill Pickering
To: Dept of Justice
Date: 1/4/02 9:03am
Subject: Proposed Microsoft settlement

AMERICA MUST FACE THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE AND RESPOND CORRECTLY

The proposed terms of antitrust settlement with Microsoft to distribute free operating software to education markets is totally unacceptable and should NOT be passed by individual states not the Justice Dept. The proposed action is really not a penalty -- it is a benefit to Microsoft.

1. Anyone with an abacus can figure out it doesn't cost \$1billion to press, distribute CDs to schools. This is only a slap on the wrist, and certainly no where close to global community service! It's ineffective action against a known monopoly and poses no penalty for Microsoft's illegal gains.
2. Sending free Microsoft Windows CDs to schools is only forcing educational markets to accept the Windows operating system -- a contrived ploy to further perpetuate the very Microsoft monopoly the Justice Department is trying so diligently to eliminate! Schools who use other computing platforms receive no benefit from this proposed action.

The proposed settlement is pure nonsense, designed to benefit no one except Microsoft.

Please do not accept this ridiculous settlement proposal. It would be devastating to our economy in the long run, and it demoralizes America's trust in our justice system.

Hundreds of thousands of parents, teachers and students across our nation have already reviewed and rejected this proposal. These folks are now asking and watching to see if individual states and the Justice Department are also wise enough to see the deception behind this proposal and refuse it's acceptance.

Microsoft continues its takeover of existing software companies at an alarming rate. Several more companies have become "Microsoft property" in past several months (incl. Great Plains Accounting). Microsoft apparently fails all reasonable efforts to deploy required self-control measures and stop it's monopolistic practices. Instead, Microsoft defies judicial orders to halt predatory practices altogether. These uncontrolled (antitrust) practices are a devastating injustice against Americans and computing industry competitors; as such must be halted by the Justice Department. More appropriate settlement terms must be pursued, or Microsoft must be split up.

Please don't turn you back on America. Do not accept the settlement proposal.